

A decorative border of pink flowers and green leaves surrounds the text. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others as buds. The leaves are vibrant green and have a detailed vein structure.

Joan's Testimony

I grew up as a child going to church with my grandparents on a regular basis. I would also always attend Bible School in the summer. I knew about **Jesus**, but I had never had anyone to come along side of me to guide me into asking Him into my heart.

Fast forward many years later, I grew up and married and my husband and I had a daughter. We attended church but still no decision was made to accept **Jesus**. The **Lord** knows just what it will take to get our attention for each of us to turn to Him.

On Christmas Eve, 1991 leading up to my Dad passing away on January 8, 1992, I finally made that decision to ask **Jesus** to come into my heart and to help me face Daddy's fast approaching death. It was truly the best decision I could have ever made. I had such a strong drawing by **The Holy Spirit**, and I followed His leading me to come to Him. This was my great time of need and my personal story that developed after that all important decision.

At that time, my Mother had dementia and that was another difficulty in my life. It seemed to me that I was losing both of my parents, instead of just one. I was so very close to both of my parents so this became a huge burden for me to try to deal with and to accept.

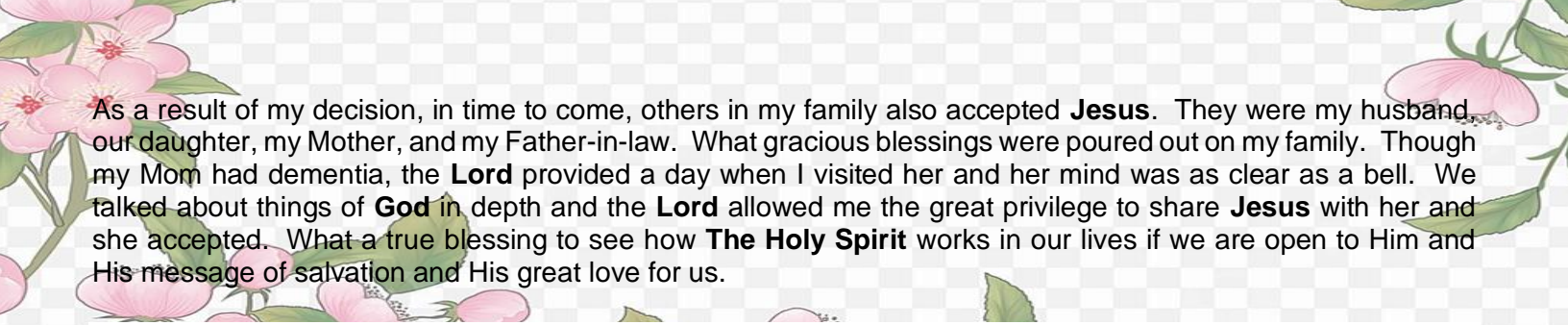
In the springtime in April, I got up one morning and after my husband left for work, I sat down in our den with a cup of coffee and my Bible and after reading scripture I suddenly had these beautiful words that just flooded my mind. I quickly grabbed paper and pen and I began to write the words down. They came to me all at once and I was writing as fast as I could. When I was through writing, I had the most beautiful poem in front of me. I felt such an overwhelming peace that came over me. I was in awe of **GOD'S** immense love and blessing for me. I knew right away the words were from **The Holy Spirit** and that He had sent them to me for comfort and healing for my heart was broken in the loss of my Dad and with Mom's condition. I was very close to both of my parents.

While the words were still fresh in my mind, I quickly copied them over on a clean sheet of paper in order to not miss a single word that was given to me. This was my first poem, but it would not be my last one. For the next year and a half I continued to write as **The Holy Spirit** would speak to my heart in words of rhyme. After the first poem, I soon learned to have paper and pen with me at all times as I never knew when another poem would come my way. That was a good thing to do as later I would write other poems in a variety of places. For example, while on my knees next to my bedside before going to bed, as I was saying my prayers, I wrote a poem and along the roadside while I was driving another one came to me so I quickly pulled over off the road and wrote again.

Prior to accepting The **Lord**, I had a fear of dying and, of course, **GOD** knew that and so my first poem was so very special as it addressed that very issue. It's entitled "Thank You Lord." After accepting God's free gift of salvation, all fear was gone. I never had a fear of death again. What an absolute blessing that was!

THANK YOU, LORD

Thank you Lord for taking all fear away
So I can now face each new day
Wrapped in Your love and assurance divine
Blessed with joy and peace of mind
Days ahead to worry no more
What life hereafter has in store
For now I live by faith in **GOD**
Strengthened with all His might
To learn **GOD'S** word is pure delight



As a result of my decision, in time to come, others in my family also accepted **Jesus**. They were my husband, our daughter, my Mother, and my Father-in-law. What gracious blessings were poured out on my family. Though my Mom had dementia, the **Lord** provided a day when I visited her and her mind was as clear as a bell. We talked about things of **God** in depth and the **Lord** allowed me the great privilege to share **Jesus** with her and she accepted. What a true blessing to see how **The Holy Spirit** works in our lives if we are open to Him and His message of salvation and His great love for us.

